

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-13. (canceled)

14. (new) A fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle comprising a fluorescent organic dye covalently conjugated to an organo-silane compound, wherein the fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle has a diameter from about 4 nm to about 200 nm.

15. (new) The fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle of claim 14 wherein the fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle has a diameter from about 4 nm to about 100 nm.

16. (new) The fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle of claim 14 wherein the fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle has a diameter from about 4 nm to about 50 nm.

17. (new) The fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle of claim 14 wherein the fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle has a diameter from about 4 nm to about 30 nm.

18. (new) The fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle of claim 14 wherein the fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle has a diameter from about 4.4 nm to about 34 nm.

19. (new) The fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle of claim 14 wherein the fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle has a diameter from about 4.4 nm to about 30 nm.

20. (new) A method of making a fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle comprising:

mixing a fluorescent organic dye and an organo-silane compound to form a dye precursor; and

co-condensing the resulting dye precursor with a silica to form a fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle.

21. (new) A fluorescent homogenous nanoparticle made by the method of claim 20.